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INFO IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001946

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THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/07/2016

TAGS: [IZ](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: A TIRED PRIME MINISTER STRUGGLING WITH UNWIELDY
POLITICAL SYSTEM

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR ZALMAY KHALILZAD PER 1.4 B AND D.

11. (C) SUMMARY: ON JUNE 7, PRIME MINISTER MALIKI REITERATED
HIS NEED TO THE AMBASSADOR FOR MORE TRAINED IRAQI ARMY AND

NATIONAL POLICE TO HANDLE THE SECURITY SITUATION IN BASRAH.
MALIKI SAID HE BELIEVES HE CAN GET HIS TWO PREFERRED NOMINEES
CONFIRMED ON JUNE 8, EVEN WITHOUT SCIRI SUPPORT, BUT WAS

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STILL SEEKING CONSENSUS FROM HIS COALITION TO MOVE FORWARD.
MEANWHILE, THE SUNNI COALITION, TAWAFFUQ, INFORMED THE PRIME
MINISTER (PM) THAT IF HE CHANGED HIS MOI CANDIDATE, FAROUQ AL
ARAJI, TAWAFFUQ WOULD WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM THE AGREED
MOD CANDIDATE ABDUL QADIR JASSIM AL MUFRAJI, AND RETURN THE
ENTIRE SELECTION PROCESS BACK TO SQUARE ONE. AMBASSADOR SAID
HE WOULD CONTACT TAWAFFUQ. END SUMMARY.

BASRAH

12. (C) PM MALIKI, LOOKING EXTREMELY TIRED, RECEIVED THE
AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 7, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH
THE BASRAH SECURITY COMMITTEE. BASRAH, MALIKI SAID, IS THE
PROBLEM OF IRAQ. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT U.S. NATIONAL
SECURITY ADVISER HADLEY HAD ASKED AMBASSADOR WHAT HE WAS
DOING TO HELP THE PM WITH BASRAH. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE
WOULD EXPLAIN TO HADLEY THAT THE PM WANTS A SECURITY PLAN FOR
BASRAH AND THAT GENERAL CASEY IS WORKING ON IT. THE PM SAID
THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE 10TH DIVISION IS IN CHARGE, BUT
THERE IS CONFUSION. THE LOCAL POLICE SITUATION IS VERY BAD,

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MALIKI CONTINUED, AND THE POLICE HAVE BEEN PENETRATED BY THE
POLITICAL PARTIES, WHO ARE GIVING THEM ORDERS. THE IRAQI
ARMY IS GOOD, BUT TOO FEW TRAINED SOLDIERS ARE AVAILABLE.
THE 10TH DIVISION COVERS 4 PROVINCES, AND THERE IS ONLY ONE
BRIGADE (OF 1000 MEN) FOR BASRAH. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT
THE PM MAKE BAGHDAD AND BASRAH NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND BRING
IN EITHER MORE COALITION FORCES OR OTHER IRAQI FORCES. THE
PM RULED OUT MOVING IRAQI FORCES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY TO BASRAH; IT WOULD JUST CREATE A VACUUM ELSEWHERE.
HE SAID HE NEEDS MORE TRAINED IRAQI SOLDIERS AND NATIONAL
POLICE BECAUSE THE LOCAL POLICE ARE JUST TOO BAD.

MOI/MOD STRUGGLE

13. (C) AMBASSADOR BRIEFED MALIKI ON THE RESULTS OF HIS
DISCUSSION EARLIER ON JUNE 7 WITH SCIRI LEADER SHAYKH ABDUL
AZIZ AL HAKIM (SEPTEL). ABDUL AZIZ FINALLY AGREED TO CONVENE
THE SHIA COALITION (UIC) TO STRENGTHEN THE PM BY FINDING A
WAY TO LET THE PM CHOOSE HIS OWN CANDIDATES. IF THE UIC DOES
THIS, THEN ABDUL AZIZ INSISTED THAT TAWAFUQ MAKE THE SAME

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PLEDGE. AMBASSADOR PROMISED THAT IF THE UIC MAKES THAT
DECISION, THEN HE WOULD TRY TO GET TAWAFUQ TO DO THE SAME.
THE PM THEN REFERRED TO THE LATEST TAWAFUQ MOVE: THREATENING
TO WITHDRAW THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF ABDEL QADER JASSIM AL MUFRAJI
FOR MOD IF THE PRIME MINISTER SWITCHES OUT MOI CANDIDATE
FAROUQ AL ARAJI FOR SOMEONE ELSE. IF THE PM DECIDES TO
PROPOSE JAWAD BOLANI, TAWAFUQ WOULD INSIST ON ONE OF FOUR
OTHER SUNNIS: MUNIR RAHIM AL-JAHESHI; DAHAM AL-JABURI; ALI
KHALIFA AL-DULAIMI; OR FADIH AL-AINI.

14. (C) AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE BEST DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE FOR
TAWAFUQ TO GIVE THE PM THE RIGHT TO SELECT HIS NEW MINISTERS.
THE PM SAID HE EXPECTS THAT THE RESULTS OF THE UIC MEETING,
WHICH WAS IN SESSION AT THE TIME, WOULD ALLOW HIM TO NAME THE
MOI, BUT ONLY IF IT IS NOT FAROUQ AL-ARAJI, THEREBY SCUTTling
THE DEAL WITH TAWAFUQ AND TAKING THE PROCESS BACK TO SQUARE
ONE. MALIKI SAID THAT THE SUNNI DID NOT ACCEPT BOLANI
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE. AMBASSADOR
ASKED FOR SOME CLARIFICATION ON BOLANI AND HOW CLOSE HE IS HE
TO SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ. MALIKI SAID THAT HE IS CLOSER TO
BOLANI THAN SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ. IN RESPONSE TO THE

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AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, MALIKI SAID HE BELIEVES THAT HE COULD
GET HIS TWO CANDIDATES (ABDUL QADER AND FAROUQ AL ARAJI)
CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING DAY. AMBASSADOR OFFERED ADDITIONAL
HELP. THE PM SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO CHANGE ABDUL QADER AS
THAT WOULD START THE PROCESS ALL OVER, BUT HE COULD SWITCH
FROM FAROUQ AL ARAJI, IF THE OTHER BLOCS WOULD AGREE TO A
DIFFERENT CANDIDATE. HE SAID HE THINKS THE KURDS ARE OK WITH
BOLANI, ADDING THAT HE WAS CLOSE TO THE SUNNI AS WELL, SO
THAT TAWAFUQ WAS JUST CREATING AN EXCUSE TO CHANGE MOD
CANDIDATES. MALIKI ASKED FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S HELP WITH
TAWAFUQ.

15. (C) IN EXASPERATION, MALIKI SAID IRAQ SHOULD HAVE A
REPUBLIC. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS
NOT FUNCTIONAL BUT THAT CHANGING IT WOULD BE FOR THE FUTURE.
THE PM CALLED IT A "FAILURE." THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH THE
AMBASSADOR'S AGREEMENT TO MEET WITH TAWAFUQ. MALIKI ADVISED
THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD TRY TO GET TAWAFUQ TO AGREE TO BOLANI.
***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

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SUBJECT: A TIRED PRIME MINISTER STRUGGLING WITH UNWIELDY
POLITICAL SYSTEM

AMBASSADOR SAID HE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH TAWAFUQ.
KHALILZAD